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SECURITY INFORMATIONCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Developments in the Barbora, Rovnost and Eva Pits in
the Jachymov Inspectorate/Horni Zdar Sorting PointDATE DISTR. **20** Dec 1952

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1.

The Barbora Pit is located about 5 km from the Jachymov-Abertamy cross-
roads, in the direction of Plesivec Mountain.

2. The management of the Barbora Pit consists of the following officials:

Manager	- Ing (fmu) Turek,
Deputy Manager	- Ing (fmu) Botsko,
Shaft Master	- (fmu) Slach,
Production Chief	- (fmu) Chodara,
Foremen	- (fmu) Vasicek, (fmu) Kuchalka, (fmu) Polak
TU Chairman	- Jaroslav Dvorak
CP Chairman	- (fmu) Patak

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3.

"The Barbora Pit employs about 160 civilian miners and 500 prisoners. The prisoners include many Slovaks from the part of southern Slovakia which was returned to Hungary in 1938. These Slovaks were drafted into the Hungarian Army and fought against the Soviets during World War II. They were tried as 'war criminals' in 1945. The Slovak civilian miners help these prisoners as much as they can, but the Czech miners treat them ruthlessly.

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complete lack of comradeship displayed by the Czech miners to the Slovak prisoners.

4.

"The Barbora Pit is worked in three shifts. The output is very low, for it is one of the poorest mines in the Jachymov Inspectorate. The output is only about 3.5 tons of quality ore per day. The pit is about 250 m

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deep. The only machinery used is a Soviet Stalinee loading machine. This is almost constantly under repair, and the miners must load the wagons with hand shovels. Production is further hampered by several underground streams. The pit must be constantly pumped, and the opening of new galleries is difficult. The explosives store is on the second gallery.

"Because of the low production, the miners' wages are also low. It is not unusual for civilian miners to get 1,200 Kc as advance payment for the whole month and a balance of only 1,500 Kc at the end of the month when their total wages are computed on the basis of the norm system. The average wage, however, is about 4,000 Kc per month.

"Before the 1952 May Day celebrations, CP and TU officials tried to persuade the miners to start a work competition and to pledge wages earned on Sunday shifts to the Korean War Fund. The miners were assembled at an open meeting to approve these resolutions, which they did unanimously. But in practice, the competition and pledge were disregarded. The miners refused to compete and none attended Sunday shifts from then on. Only the prisoners were ordered out on Sundays, to do maintenance work and repairs in the shafts.

"The Eva Pit is about one km south of the Barbara Pit. The uranium ore from the Eva Pit is said to be of high quality. The prescribed norms have to be fulfilled, and Sunday shifts there have become quite regular. About 120 miners work in the Eva Pit. Almost half are prisoners who are brought to work each day from the Marijanka camp nearby. The pit has six galleries. The normal output is about two cartloads (1 cart = 0.7 cu m) of ore per shift.

"The collection and sorting point for uranium ore in the Jachymov region is at Horni Zdar. The output of all mines in the Jachymov, Horni Slavkov and Pribram regions is loaded every three weeks on a so-called 'vertuska', a short train consisting usually of eight to 12 freight cars. Each transport is accompanied by 16 SNB-men, who have a special sleeping car attached to the train. A miner from Cesky Tesin told me that several such uranium transports have been seen passing through the border station of Cesky Tesin, towards Poland.

"The process of ore selection is quite complicated. The ore arrives at Horni Zdar packed in boxes which bear the name of the originating pit. The number of radioactive units in each shipment is determined with radiometers. The best quality of ore is then ground and packed in special small barrels, 50 cm high and 40 cm in diameter. The weight of the ore must not exceed 64 kg per barrel. The next quality ore, known as 'smolka', is packed separately in other barrels, each of which weighs about 120 kg. Each railroad car is loaded only with one kind of ore. The lowest quality ore is stored in heaps and loaded and transported without special packing. It is estimated that out of every 12 railroad cars of ore, six contain loose, 'poor stuff', 2 contain 'smolka' and 4 contain barrels of good grade ore.

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"A new airfield is under construction in the vicinity of Horni Zdar. It is said that this airfield will be a base from which large transport planes will fly high quality uranium ore direct to the USSR.

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"The official in charge of the OTK in Horni Zdar is Ing (fmu) Brandl [redacted]

(fmu) Styrsky is in charge of the ore selection and grinding. [redacted]

The CP Chairman, (fmu) Huml. sends the prisoners into solitary confinement if the norms are not fulfilled. [redacted]

[redacted] meaning of the abbreviation OTK. It is presumably 'Oddeleni Technicke Kontroly' or 'Oddeleni Tezobni Kontroly'. The only OTK is in Horni Zdar/.

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"In June 1952, three new Soviet PIM-5 dredging machines arrived in the Roynost Pit in the Jachymov region. The total equipment then of [redacted] six Soviet dredging machines. The largest Soviet machine, weighing seven tons, was taken up to the surface later in the summer as it proved too clumsy to use. The

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Chief Engineer of the Rovnost Pit is (fnu) Vrana. His assistant is (fnu) David. The mining officials in charge of the various levels are Bila Necas, (fnu) Bura, (fnu) Kovar, (fnu) Bucinsky, (fnu) Adamec, (fnu) Lintimer and (fnu) Belka. Among the Soviet engineers who inspect the pit regularly are (fnu) Kosonogov and (fnu) Natalchuk.

13. "The Radio Palace, which is the largest hotel in Jachymov, is reserved for Soviet personnel exclusively. The newest pit, the Frantiska, is located close to this hotel. The Slovan Hotel in Jachymov is reserved for members of the police. Female police forces occupy the former Internal Revenue office close to the Slovan Hotel. The Soviets have also taken over the Union and Praha Hotels in Jachymov, as well as the house known as Na Slovanech.

14. "A new hospital is under construction in Ostrov. The labor force is made up of men who are not strong enough to work in the mines."

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